AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) A software installation method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

~~storing information related to a constituent element of a user's computer system and software required for operation of the constituent element and also~~ storing identification information for identifying a user's computer system ~~that is supplied to the user's computers,~~ and system configuration information, associated with the identification information, indicating hardware components of the user's computer system;

storing software components required for operation of each of the hardware components;

accepting from the user's computer system the identification information of the user's computer system; and

sending, to the user's computer system, the software components required for ~~the~~ operation of the ~~constituent element~~ hardware components of the user's computer system that is determined from the stored system configuration information ~~which corresponds to~~ associated with the accepted identification information.

2.   (Original)   The software installation method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

managing, for an individual user, a fee for the software sent to the user's computer

system; and

collecting the fee from the user.

3.   (Currently Amended) A software installation method comprising:

a first database for storing ~~information related to a constituent element of a computer~~

~~system and~~ software components required for operation of ~~the constituent element~~hardware

components of a computer system;

a second database for storing identification information for identifying a computer

system supplied to a user, and system configuration information associated with the

identification information indicating hardware components of the computer system;

~~an~~ accepting means for accepting from the user's computer system the identification

information given to the user's computer system;

first determining means for determining system configuration information which

corresponds to the accepted identification information, with reference to the second database;

second determining means for determining the software components required for

operation of the ~~constituent element which is~~ hardware components indicated in the system

configuration information, with reference to the first database; and

sending means for sending the determined software components to the user's

computer system.

4.   (Currently Amended) A software installation method comprising the steps of:

sending identification information <u>identifying</u> ~~of~~ a first computer system to a second

computer system;

accepting, in response to the above step, <u>at least one</u> software <u>component</u> required for

operation of a ~~constituent element~~ <u>hardware component</u> of the first computer system, which is

indicated in system configuration information stored in the second computer which

corresponds to the identification information sent from the first computer system; and

conducting setup processing in order to make the <u>at least one</u> software <u>component</u>

accepted in the accepting step into an executable state in the first computer.

5.   (Original)   The software installation method according to claim 4, wherein the

first computer system reads and executes a specified installation software which is stored in a

specified storage medium.

6.   (Currently Amended) The software installation method according to claim 5, further

comprising ~~the~~ <u>a</u> step of storing <u>the at least one</u> software <u>component</u> which the first computer

system receives from the second computer system.

7.   (Currently Amended) A storage medium having software stored thereon for making a

computer system, which has a memory in which identification information <u>identifying the</u>

4

computer system is stored, execute ~~the~~ a function of installing a specified software onto the

computer system, wherein,

the software comprises the functions of:

sending the identification information to another computer system;

accepting, following the sending of the identification information, at least one

software component required for operating a ~~constituent element~~ hardware component of the

computer system sent from the another computer system; and

conducting setup processing in order to make the accepted at least one software

component into an executable state.

8.   (Currently Amended) An installation system for a client/server system ~~constituted by~~

comprising a first computer system and a second computer system, by which software is

installed onto the first computer system,

wherein the first computer system comprises:

means for storing identification information for identifying the first computer system;

means for connecting the first computer system to the second computer system and

for sending the identification information to the second computer system, in accordance with

recovery instructions; and

first accepting means for accepting at least one software component sent from the

second computer system, and

wherein the second computer system comprises:

a first database for storing ~~information related to a constituent element of the first computer system and~~ software <u>components</u> required for operation of ~~the constituent element~~<u>hardware components of the first computer system</u>;

a second database for storing <u>the</u> identification information for identifying ~~a~~<u>the first</u> computer system~~supplied to a user~~, and system configuration information indicating <u>the</u> hardware <u>components</u> of the first computer system;

~~second~~accepting means for accepting, from the first computer system, the identification information of the first computer system;

~~——————accepting means for accepting the identification information sent from the first computer system;~~

first determining means for determining system configuration information which corresponds to the accepted identification information, with reference to the second database;

second determining means for determining <u>the</u> software <u>components</u> required for operation of the ~~constituent element which is~~<u>hardware components</u> indicated in the system configuration information, with reference to the first database; and

sending means for sending the determined software <u>components</u> to the first computer system.

9-10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Currently Amended) A software installation method comprising:

a first database for storing system configuration information ~~related to~~ indicating

hardware components of a user's computer system;

a second database for storing identification information for identifying a computer

system of a user and the system configuration information of the user's computer system;

an accepting means for accepting from the user's computer system the identification

information given to the user's computer system;

first determining means for determining system configuration information which

corresponds to the accepted identification information, with reference to the second database;

second determining means for determining the software components corresponding to

the system configuration information based on the identification information of the user's

computer system determined with reference to the first database; and

sending means for sending the determined software components to the user's

computer system.

12-15   (Cancelled)

16.   (Currently Amended) An installation system for a client/server system constituted by

a first computer system and a second computer system, by which software is installed onto

the first computer system,

wherein the first computer system comprises:

means for storing identification information for identifying the first computer system;

7

means for connecting the first computer system to the second computer system and

for sending the identification information to the second computer system, in accordance with

recovery instructions; and

first accepting means for accepting software sent from the second computer system,

and

wherein the second computer system comprises:

a first database for storing ~~system configuration information of~~ software components

required for operation of hardware components of the first computer system;

a second database for storing identification information for identifying a computer

system supplied to a user, and the system configuration information associated with the

identification information indicating hardware components of the first computer system;

~~second~~ accepting means for accepting, from the first computer system, the

identification information of the first computer system;

~~accepting means for accepting the identification information sent from the first~~

~~computer system;~~

first determining means for determining system configuration information which

corresponds to the accepted identification information, with reference to the second database;

second determining means for determining the software components ~~corresponding to~~

~~the system configuration information~~ required for operation of the hardware components, with

reference to the first database; and

8

sending means for sending the determined software <u>components</u> to the first computer

system.

17.   (New) A software installation method according to claim 1, wherein the software

components are device drivers and the hardware components are peripheral devices of the

user's computer system.

18.   (New) A software installation method according to claim 3, wherein the software

component is a device driver and the hardware component is a peripheral device of the user's

computer system.

19.   (New) A software installation method according to claim 4, wherein the software

component is a device driver and the hardware component is a peripheral device of the first

computer system.

20.   (New) A storage medium according to claim 7, wherein the software component is a

device driver and the hardware component is a peripheral device of the computer system.

21.   (New) An installation system for a client/server system according to claim 8, wherein

the software component is a device driver and the hardware component is a peripheral device

of the first computer system.

22.   (New) A software installation method according to claim 11, wherein the software

component is a device driver of a peripheral device of the user's computer system.

23.   (New) An installation system for a client/server system according to claim 16,

wherein the software component is a device driver of a peripheral device of the first computer

system.